

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 2

**Output Group:** 2.1 – Infrastructure funding for the post-compulsory system

#### **DEST Question No. E264\_05**

Senator Johnston asked on 3 June, EWRE Hansard page 12.

#### **Question:**

In the context of asking about the problem in Western Australia with retention of apprentices, and in response to references to industry skills councils, the Senator asked if we contract a private organisation to provide that advice, and how often they (industry skills councils) report. Ms Gawler responded that details on that would be provided.

#### **Answer:**

##### *Industry Skills Councils and reporting*

ANTA has provided the following response.

Industry Skills Councils are incorporated organisations declared and funded by ANTA to perform a number of roles on behalf of industry and the national vocational education and training system. They replace the previous structure of Industry Training Advisory Bodies, which have been supported by ANTA since 1994. The Skills Councils are bipartite, and contractual relationships require high standards of corporate governance from them.

They operate under an annual funding agreement that sets out outcomes to be achieved for the industry and the specific activities they will undertake, plus the deliverables to be provided. The Industry Skills Councils provide four progress reports a year, plus an annual report that sets out achievements for the year and is linked to a business plan that sets out priorities for the next year. Specific deliverables will also be provided at stages during the year, depending on what has been contracted.

One of the specific activities and deliverables is an Industry Skills Report setting out all aspects of skills issues for the industry, including performance and trends, which is then used to inform future action. The Industry Skills Report will be produced annually. The statistical base for this work is pulled together by ANTA, but it is validated and given a future orientation in relation to emerging skill needs by the Council.

The Industry Skills Reports from the 10 Industry Skills Councils are considered at an annual National Industry Skills Forum, which results in an annual National Industry Skills Report.